



Congo Republic



Wild, Natural & Sustainable®
Alaska Global
Food Aid Program

Wild Alaska Seafood Powder

The positive benefits and successful use of Canned Alaska Seafood products in international and domestic nutrition and safety net programs led the Alaska seafood industry to develop alternative products that would be more efficient to ship and provide the same high quality marine protein in concentrated form. The Alaska Global Food Aid program teamed up with the International Partnership for Development to launch a pilot project in the Republic of Congo. This was the first program to use a seafood powder in school meals to boost nutrition and enhance the flavor of the meals.

The project tested the acceptability and feasibility of incorporating Alaska Seafood Powder in school meals for over 4,000 students, ages six to sixteen, in the Brazzaville and Pool departments. The meals were served during the spring and fall terms of the 2014-2015 school year; data were collected at beginning and end of the terms to determine the success of the product. Students and cooks were asked to rate the powder in terms of flavor, consistency, appearance, and aroma. Opinion about the product was very positive. The school meal normally consisted of plain rice and beans and the powder added fish flavor and animal quality protein to and essential fatty acids to the usual fare. Cooks and school principals provided information about ease of preparation, use, and storage.



Overall the product was widely accepted and the children were very positive. Almost all of those who participated, reported they would readily eat meals made with the seafood powder again. Cooks thought the product was easy to use and came up with several recipes in which the seafood powder could readily be included. The cooks and staff said they would like to use the powder in their own cooking.

Some regional differences were noted. Children in Pool, where fish consumption is more frequent, often gave higher reviews than children in Brazzaville, where eating fish is less common. Alaska Seafood Powder is a feasible and acceptable way to add high quality marine protein to meals in school feeding programs and has potential for commercial applications in Africa and elsewhere.